

plan that has been advanced by the committee represents community of interests and also geographical areas. I would put to you that the Senator Bernard-Stevens' plan advanced by the committee displaces very many more voters from districts they have been traditionally a part of than this plan does. The argument about moving the District 38 is one that has some merit and if I were to propose moving District 38 to Omaha, that would be very greatly in violation of the spirit of the Constitution, as Senator Bernard-Stevens suggests. But when we're moving the District 38 to include two new counties, along with a county that I currently represent in the 38th District, and the fact that I have worked very closely with all the irrigators in all those counties, with the Tri-County Irrigation District and the people of Holdrege and Lexington and Cozad and Elwood, which is currently in my district, I don't feel that that argument really has a point. When you divide pump irrigating districts and dryland grass and wheat land, such as in Dundee, Chase and Perkins Counties, and move them together within a district that's in the Tri-County Irrigation District and the City of Holdrege, that certainly isn't a community of interest or geophysically together. When you include about 40 percent of Red Willow County with the City of McCook and with Nuckolls and Webster Counties along with Superior, that is certainly not a community of interest, nor is it of service to the constituents of southwest Nebraska. My interest is to try my best to do the best thing we can for this state, and not to represent a selfish viewpoint. Certainly we can see that these southwest Nebraska districts much more represent a community. Senator Doug Kristensen's district, for example, currently consists of all of what is in my plan with the addition of one county to make his numbers. The current 39th District that would become the 38th consists of all the area that's currently within that district. The new 44th District has most of the area that the 44th District in population had before. Senator Bernard-Stevens' County of Lincoln currently is divided between Senator Haberman, Senator Bernard-Stevens and myself. We restore the integrity of Lincoln County completely with this plan. The other districts follow basically what the outlines that they've had in the past and I would suggest to you when you're considering this important vote that this plan holds the integrity of the current system together...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ..in a better way and in the better interests of